

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER
LT. GOVERNOR

May 10, 2010

The Honorable Hillary Clinton
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton:

Recently a number of advocacy groups sent your office a letter asking you to suspend the permitting of the Keystone XL (KXL) pipeline. I do not believe a suspension is warranted in this case. I wholeheartedly support and stand behind the rigorous permitting process already in place that is being administered jointly by the State Department and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

KXL has the potential to be an economic boon for Montana's economy by increasing jobs and tax revenues and opening up potential new markets for oil from our Bakken and Williston formations.

The pipeline could also potentially enhance U.S. energy security by helping displace oil from unfriendly or unstable nations overseas. However the project will only have my support to proceed if it is done in an environmentally safe and responsible way. I trust in the permitting processes already in place and I believe they are thoroughly sufficient to gauge whether or not the project will meet environmental standards.

Therefore, I urge you to let the permitting process proceed as designed and reject the recent request to suspend it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Schweitzer", with a stylized flourish at the end.

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
Governor